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Toy Loan Program Newsletter

Michelle Callahan—Bureau Director
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Director's Corner

Many thanks to our wonderful Office Volunteer Liaisons who disseminate Volunteer Services information to our staff every month. On October 3, 2012, the bi-annual Office Volunteer Liaison meeting was held at Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Headquarters. Attendees were given a tour of the office and warehouse, which stores over 30,000 toys. Special recognition was given to Lola Mumford of GAIN Region V for being the first Office Volunteer Liaison to submit Adopt-A-Family referrals this year. Every office has a designated Office Volunteer Liaison. If for some reason, your office does not have a designated Office Volunteer Liaison please contact Erica Moya at (213) 744-4348. In recent months, we have had an overwhelming number of toy drives from local partners such as the City of Los Angeles – Bureau of Sanitation, Hermosa Beach Boy Scouts, and the Kaiser Office of Integrity in Pasadena. A special thank you to these wonderful agencies that support the Toy Loan Program. We were honored to have Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard at a recent Toy Loan Center grand opening at the Eastmont Community Center on October 11, 2012. A special thank you to her and her Chief of Staff, Ana Figueroa, for taking the time to support our program. I would like to recognize Eugenia Manning, Information Systems Analyst II at ESD/LEADER, for assisting us at weekend community outreach events in September and October. You are a great volunteer and we appreciate your help:)

Follow us on Twitter! Each week, we issue tweets on upcoming events and ways in which you can help the Toy Loan Program. This is a great way to keep up with free events and volunteer opportunities. Follow us @toyloanla 

Toy Reuse Drive at City of Los Angeles Sanitation Department



A special thanks to Miguel Manahan at the Los Angeles Sanitation

Department for hosting a Toy Reuse Drive. Barrels were placed in seven of their office locations. A kick-off event at City Hall Farmers Market was held on October 18, 2012 from 11am-1pm. It was a great event for a great cause and full of great people. Toy Loan will definitely be back next year to help out.



Toy Loan Grand Openings

We are very proud and excited to announce Toy Loan Center's most recent Grand Openings, Potrero Heights Park Community & Senior Center which opened on 9/6/12, Miramonte Elementary School opened on 9/11/12, Eastmont Community Center opened on 10/11/12, and Placentia Elementary School opened on 10/23/12.

Eastmont Community Center had a special visit from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and Erica Juarez, a Field Representative from Gloria Molina's Office. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard helped Toy Loan Staff distribute toys to all children present.



L to R— Erica Juarez, 1st District Field Rep, Marcia Benitez, Toy Loan, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Teresa Palacios, Eastmont Director.

DPSS' FUN-Mania Event at Whittier Narrows Park



The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) held the annual Charitable Giving Fundraiser and Sporting Event 'Funmania 2012,' on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at Whittier Narrows Park in the City of El Monte. Every year, DPSS employees, family and friends gather to play a few games, enjoy some good food and just spend time with co-workers outside of the office. This year was no different, as hundreds of employees gathered to play soccer, softball, volleyball, and even a wellness walk and bike ride. DPSS also provided free hot dogs to all who attended. As always, our smiling Toy Loan staff and volunteers were present to provide small giveaways to the children. A special thanks to all of the volunteers that helped Toy Loan staff make this event a success. Please visit our website to see more photos of Funmania 2012.

<http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/toyloan/>



DPSS Volunteer Programs Newsletter



Office Volunteer Liaison Meeting

Office Volunteer Liaisons (OVLs) do so much for the Department. The last bi-annual meeting took place on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Headquarters. The main focus of this meeting was centered on Adopt-A-Family (AAF) and the importance that the OVLs have. We had a special guest, Concepcion Gonzalez (former AAF adoptee), who spoke about the positive effects Adopt-A-Family had on her family when she was homeless. That's why we thoroughly went over the Adopt-A-Family forms and the importance of completing the forms in their entirety. We welcomed new OVLs and praised the OVLs that always submit their monthly reports on time. Adopt-A-Family is currently underway and we want to remind Eligibility Workers, Social Workers and GAIN Services Workers that it's not too late to refer those families that are undergoing hardships. If you have any questions regarding Adopt-A-Family, please call (213) 744-4348 or e-mail dpssvolunteers@dpss.lacounty.gov.



Thank you OVLs for making a difference!

2012 Adopt-A-Family Program

For over 25 years, the Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) Adopt-A-Family Program has brought joy to families during the holiday season. Last year the Adopt-A-Family Program provided gifts of clothing, toys, food and other items to 710 families comprised of 1,716 children.

Sponsors are matched with a family and given a family profile including names, ages and specific needs of each family member. Requests include grocery items, clothing, gift certificates, food baskets and toys.

Sponsoring a family is a wonderful way to celebrate the true spirit of the holiday. It is a great project for families, co-workers, organizations, clubs and schools. You can make a difference in our community by remembering the true meaning of the holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile program.

To Adopt-A-Family today, please call (213) 744-4348 or e-mail dpssvolunteers@dpss.lacounty.gov no later than Thursday, December 6, 2012. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded online at <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/toyloan>.

2012 Los Angeles County Day at the Fair & Parade

It was 104 degrees in Pomona, but the Department of Public Social Services along with numerous fellow County Departments couldn't miss out on the Annual County Day at the L.A. County Fair & Parade on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Toy Loan & Volunteer Services staff were thrilled to share the fair grounds for the first time with the CalFresh Mobile Unit and Eligibility Staff. Toy Loan & Volunteer Services provided free toy give-aways to all the children that attended, while Eligibility Staff provided information about the CalFresh Program. Eligibility Staff took CalFresh applications and explained eligibility requirements to everyone that was interested. The event was a success, thanks to all of the volunteers who walked in the parade showing their employee pride. We could not have done it without you. We hope to see you again next year.



Sheryl L. Spiller, DPSS Director
Department Head Parade Float



From L to R: Marisol Lecuanda (EW), Marlon Godinez (EW) and Gustavo Arias (ES)

Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Calendar of Events

Grand Opening at Annandale Elementary	11/08
Veteran's Day	11/12
TLAB Meeting	11/13
Thanksgiving	11/22
Grand Opening at Allesandro Elementary	11/29
Beach Cities Gift Wrapping Event	12/15
Christmas Day	12/25
New Year	1/1/13

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have topics of interest, articles and/or pictures for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4344